

**Reese Meredith to George Washington, May 5, 1773,
Letters to Washington and Accompanying Papers.
Published by the Society of the Colonial Dames of
America. Edited by Stanislaus Murray Hamilton.**

FROM REESE MEREDITH, ESQ. ¹

PHILADELPHIA May 5th. 1773

ESTEEMED FRIEND COLONEL WASHINGTON

From the little acquaintance I had with thee formerly, I take the liberty of recommending the bearer Capt. John Harper who is in partnership with William Hartshorne—John Harper comes down in order to see the Country, if he likes it, they propose to come down and settle with you; they are Men that have a very pretty Interest—Wm. Hartshorne lived with me some Time—They are Industrious, Careful, Sober Men; If Capt. Harper should want to draw on this place for Five hundred Pounds, I will engage his Bills shall be paid—Any Civilitys shewn him will be return'd by

Thy Friend REESE MEREDITH

¹ Born in Radnorshire, Wales, 1705; died in Philadelphia, 1777. Watson, in his *Annals of Philadelphia*, relates the following anecdote of this influential Quaker: "Reese Meredith, a merchant of Philadelphia, seeing Washington at the Coffee-house [in 1755], was so pleased with his personal demeanour as a genteel stranger, that he invited him home, to dine with him on fresh venison. It formed a lasting friendship, and caused afterwards, it is said, the appointment of another Meredith of the family [his son, General Samuel Meredith] to be first treasurer of the Union. As this acquaintance was formed without formal introduction, it long remained a grateful recollection in Meredith's family, as a proof of his discernment."